Post 6/24/79

James Earl Ray Loses Another Bid for New Trial

MEMPHIS, June 23 (UPI)—James Earl Ray has suffered another setback in his bid for a new trial for the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In a decision filed earlier this week, Criminal Court Judge William Williams rejected the latest request by attorneys Mark Lane and Charles Galbreath.

Ray's attorneys claimed the convicted assassin deserved a new trial on six grounds, four of which Williams said had already been dismissed by state and federal courts. The judge rejected a fifth ground—that jurors who heard Ray's guilty plea in 1969 did not specify the degree of homicide. Williams said jurors clearly specified first-degree murder.